

# What are the breakpoints?

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# Definition

- Decision points or events that will change the direction of the strategic plans or direction.

# Breakpoint categories

- Technology
- Science
- Geopolitical
- Societal

# Technology

- Low cost transportation
- Alternatives
- Solution or no solution to materials/fuels problems
- Development of heavy lift capability
- No RTG heat source availability
- Miniturization/nanotechnology

# Science

- Asteroid
- Fusion
- Discovery of life
- New energy sources - antimatter
- Rapid climate change

# Geopolitical

- Chinese, India, European, etc. (space race)
- Russian (French) re-entry
- Bad civilian accident
- Russians say no more  $^{238}\text{Pu}$
- Large international collaborative effort

# Societal

- War
- Radiological or nuclear terrorist event
- Affordability
- Decision to not allow nuclear activities in space
- Change in administration
- Change in budget and/or economy conditions
- Loss of (astronaut) life – STS, Station
- Private initiative
- Loss of confidence in NASA

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